

# **Loftus Urban District.**

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**NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH)  
COMBINED DISTRICTS.**

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## **. REPORT . for the Year 1926**

of the Medical Officer of Health,

**C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B  
D.P.H.**

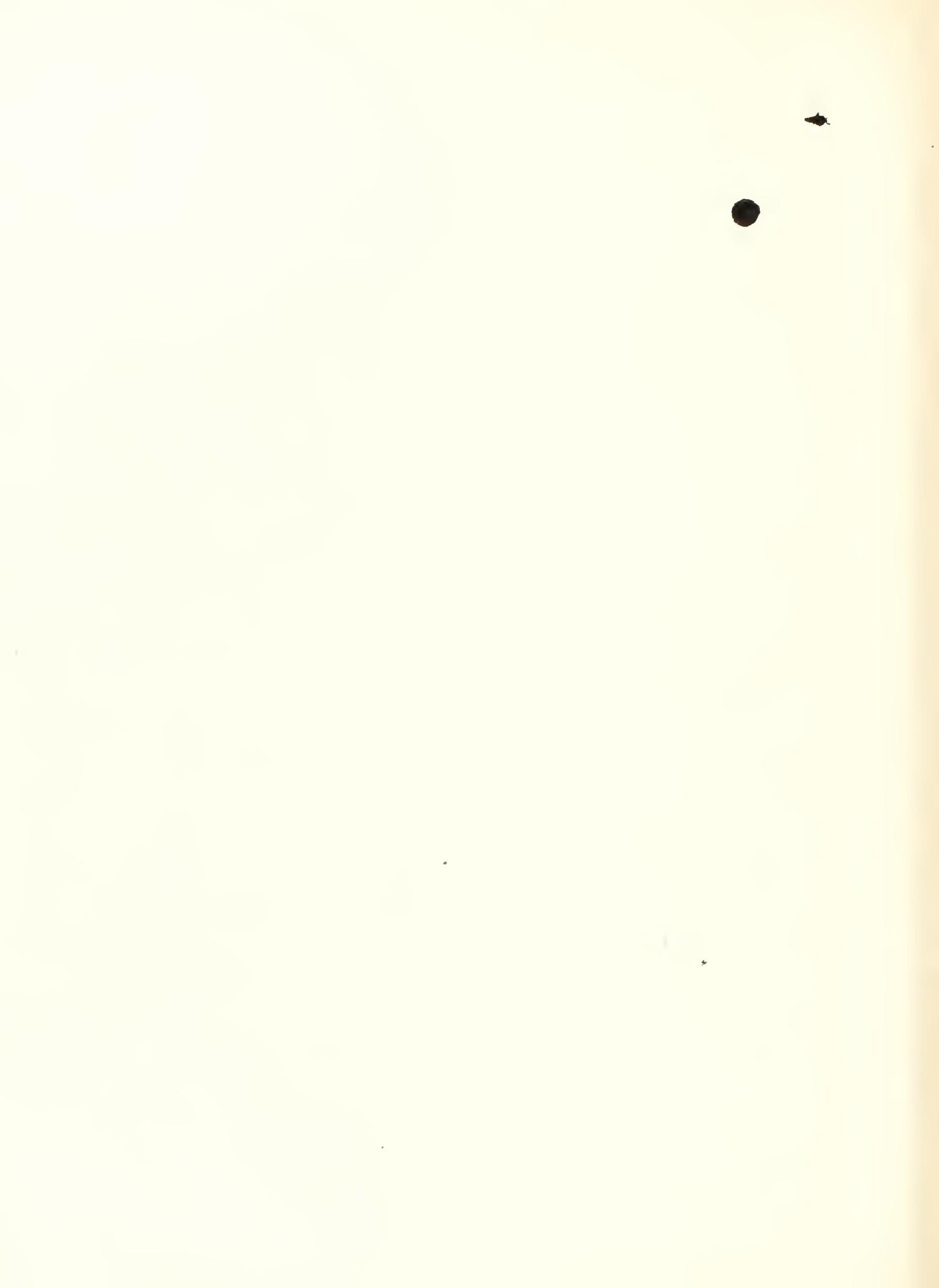
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*Guisborough*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my report for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

Socially the year has been memorable for the great coal stoppage lasting from April almost to the end of the year, and having, through the curtailment of employment and trade, a deep, though indirect, effect upon general health and nutrition. On the other hand, the year brought with it more sunshine and less rain than the average; especially in its first and last quarters when sunshine is particularly welcome. Epidemics were not large nor serious: a small outbreak of diphtheria in the autumn was responsible for two deaths: beyond that there was a little scarlet fever, and some whooping-cough and chicken-pox with no fatalities.

The general death-rate, for the fifth year in succession, was again low: 9.7 per thousand of population, as compared with 10.4 in the previous year. The average annual death-rate over the five years 1922 to 1926 has been as low as 9.4, the most favourable rate in the Guisborough Union. The two other chief rates employed in vital statistics, birth-rate and infant mortality rate, have likewise been low. The birth-rate in 1926 was 16.4 per thousand of population, against 17.7 in 1925. The infant mortality rate reached the surprisingly low figure of  $27\frac{1}{2}$  infant deaths per thousand births. Here also, as in the general death-rate, a low level has been maintained throughout the last five years, the average during them being  $48\frac{1}{2}$  infant deaths per thousand births, which may be compared with 107 infant deaths per thousand births in the preceding five years, 1917 to 1927. An infant mortality rate of somewhere in the forties may be regarded as satisfactory, and considering that the district has maintained such a rate over five years, there seems no reason why such an average figure should not be maintained. Along with a low rate of death among infants goes usually a more robust early childhood, and it is as one would expect to find, that the mortality in children over one year of age and under 5 years has also been low, at the rate of 5.9 per thousand living at these ages. As the saying goes, "well begun is half done," so that the healthy start in life which children in recent years have had here augurs well for their health and strength when they reach manhood or womanhood.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Carlin How which had been closed since the end of 1923, was re-opened early in 1926.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. R. GIBSON.

Guisborough,

April 25th, 1927.

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

### Hospitals provided or subsidised:

	(a) by the Local Authority.	(b) by the County Cou
(1) Tuberculosis	—	Wensleydale Sanatorium, Aysgarth Rutson Hospital, Northallerton Phillipson's Home, Stannington Morris Grange, Catterick
(2) Maternity	—	Middlesbrough Maternity Hospital
(3) Children	—	—
(4) Fever	Isolation Hospital.	—
(5) Smallpox	—	—
(6) Other	—	—

**Isolation Hospital:**—The Council's Isolation Hospital is situated south of the foot-road from Loftus to Skinningrove. It consists of a stone cottage, occupied by the caretaker, and two wood and galvanised iron buildings containing ten beds for patients. The accommodation is sufficient for the ordinary needs of the district.

**Smallpox Hospital Accommodation:**—The Council has decided that in the event of any cases of Smallpox arising in their district, they shall be removed to one of the two ward-blocks at the Isolation Hospital. The risk of the spread of infection of cases treated there would be high, and it is to be hoped that the area maintains the freedom from smallpox it has enjoyed for so many years.

**Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the Area:** Nil.

**Ambulance Facilities:**— (a) for Infectious cases : The Council use an adapted cab for transporting fever cases.

(b) for Non-infectious and Accident cases : The St. John Ambulance Association maintain an ambulance at Carlin How.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

	Provided by the Local Authority.	Provided or subsidised by the County Council.
Maternity and Child Welfare (1) At the Town Hall, Loftus, first Centres.	and third Thursdays, 3 p.m. One large meeting hall, one doctor's consulting room.	—

	Provided by the Local Authority.	Provided or subsidised by the County Council.
(2) At the Ambulance Room, Carlin How, second & fourth Tuesdays, 3 p.m. One large room used as meeting hall, babies' weighing room, and doctor's consulting room.	—	—
School Clinic	...	—
Tuberculosis Dispensary	...	—
Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases	—	St. John Ambulance Room, Carlin How, Skelton. At Stockton & Thornaby Hospital.

**Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:** particulars of these are given in Table 7. Mr. Audsley holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

**Professional Nursing in the Home:**—There is a District Nursing Association in Loftus, with no co-ordination with the local authority.

There is no provision for the nursing of infectious diseases, such as measles, etc., in the home.

**Midwives:**—The local authority make no payment to practising midwives, of whom there is one in the district.

**Legislation in force in the District:**—See Table 4. The Council passed a resolution adopting the Adoptive Sections of the Public Health Act, 1925, which have become effective during the current year 1927.

## Appendix.

### 1.—General Statistics.

Area (acres) 6,397.

Population: Census, 1921, 9,014.

Registrar General's Estimate, 1926, 8,864.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) 1,750.

New houses erected, mid-1921 to mid-1926 : 20.

Rateable Value : £33,217.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £138.

### 2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

	Total.	M.	F.	Rate.
Births, legitimate	... 132	75	57	16.4
illegitimate	... 13	5	8	
Deaths	... 86	45	41	9.7

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :

(a) from sepsis, 0 ; (b) other causes, 1.

Infant Mortality Rate: deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births :

(a) legitimate : 23

(b) illegitimate: 77

(c) total : 27½

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - - - 0

Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages) - - 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0

### 3. Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1926.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted in hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	6	4
Scarlet Fever	...	9	6
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	19	6
Other diseases generally notifiable :—			
Enceph. Lethargica	..	—	—
Erysipelas	..	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	—

### 3a. TUBERCULOSIS.

#### New Cases.

#### Deaths.

Age-periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years	...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
20—24 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 years	...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
45—54 years	...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—64 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All ages	...	7	2	2	—	—	2	2

#### **4. ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS in force in the Districts.**

	Borough of Redcar.	Guisborough Rural District	Guisborough Urban District	Lothus Urban District	Saltburn by the Sea Urban District	Skelton and Brotton Urban District
A. Adoptive Acts.				Adopted 1891	Adopted 1891	—
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	Adopted 1921					
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III	Adopted 1891	Adopted 1896	Adopted 1893	Adopted 1891	Adopted 1891	Adopted 1891
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Chief Sanitary Sections ...	Adopted 1908	—	Adopted 1912	Adopted 1908	Adopted 1908	Adopted 1912
Public Health Act, 1925, Adoptive Sections	Adopted 1926	Adopted 1926	—	—	—	Adopted 1926
B. Byelaws.						
New Streets and Buildings ...	... 1921	1925	1925	1923	1925	
Cleansing of Footways, Removal of House Refuse, Cleansing of Privies, etc. ...	1893 ... 1893 ... 1893 ... 1893 ... 1893 ... 1901	1901 — 1878 — 1893 — 1901 — 1914	1893 — 1893 — 1893 — 1893 — 1914	1879 — 1879 — 1893 — 1879 — 1917	1879 — 1882 — 1882 — 1879 — 1911	1879 — 1882 — 1882 — 1879 — —
Nuisances	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...
C. REGULATIONS.						
Removal to Hospitals of Persons brought within the district by any ship or boat						—
					1909	—

## 5. ABSTRACT OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

	Number dealt with.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Result.	Remarks.
Nuisances	... 240	144	3	Compliance	—
Slaughter-houses	... 6	0	0	—	2,080 lbs. of meat was surrendered as unsound and destroyed.
Dairies and Cowsheds	... 10	4	0	Compliance	—
Bakehouses	... 6	0	0	—	—
Factories and Workshops	... 67	0	0	—	—
Common Lodging House	... 1	2	0	Compliance	—
Offensive Trades	... 9	0	0	—	These are all fried fish shops.
Music Halls, Cinemas, etc.	... 3	1	0	Compliance	—
Disinfected	... 13	—	—	—	—

4 pail-closets converted to water-closets; at the 31st December there were 370 privies, 1,108 pail-closes, and 391 water-closets.

## 6. LABORATORY WORK, ETC.

## 7. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Borough of Redcar.	Guisborough Rural District.	Guisborough Urban District.	Loftus Urban District.	Saltburn-by-the-Sea Urban District.	Skelton & Brotton Urban District.
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<b>A. WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS.</b>					
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	Dr. C. R. Gibson.	...	...
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Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. W. Tutin Mr. R. Milligan	Mr. G. W. Shipley	Mr. R. H. Kilburn	Mr. P. H. Audsley	Mr. T. Young <sup>2</sup> Mr. A. Cummings
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<b>B. PART-TIME OFFICERS.</b>					
Medical Officers to Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	—	—	Dr. Bland Dr. Stain-thorpe	Dr. Guy Dr. Johnston	Dr. Botham Dr. Caldwell Dr. Howe

<sup>2</sup> Also Surveyor for the district concerned.

## 8. HOUSING.

	Borough of Redcar.	Guisborough Rural District.	Guisborough Urban District.	Lottus Urban District	Saltburn Urban District.	Skelton & Brotton Urban District
<b>New Houses erected in 1926</b>						
Total	... 221	14	2	1	50	11
With Subsidy	... 106	11	0	0	7	11
Without Subsidy	... 49	3	1	1	18	0
Under District Council Scheme	... 66	0	0	0	25	0
Houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	... 96	15	28	83	30	246
Houses inspected under Housing Regulations	14	15	28	32	30	246
Houses found unfit for habitation	.. 6	0	1	0	0	0
Houses found requiring repair	... 90	15	27	32	30	221
Houses repaired in consequence of informal notices	... 88	15 (in hand)	28	6		53
<b>Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act 1925</b>						
(1) Houses respecting which formal notices were served	... 0	0	0	4	11	0
(2) Houses rendered fit by Owners	... 0	0	0	4	6	0
(3) Houses rendered fit by L.A.	... 0	0	0	0	0	0
(4) Houses voluntarily closed by Owners	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</b>						
(1) Houses respecting which formal notices were served	... 0	0	0	0	13	65
(2) Houses repaired by Owners	... 0	0	0	0	13	34
(3) Houses repaired by L.A.	... 0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Proceedings under Secs. 11, 14, 15 of the Housing Act 1925</b>						
Closing Order made	... 6	0	1	0	0	0
Other action	... 0	0	0	0	0	0

## 9. COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Skelton and Brotton Urban District.	Loftus Urban District.	Guisborough Urban District.	Guisborough Rural District.	Borough of Redcar.	Saltburn- by-the-Sea Urban District.	England and Wales.
Percentage of houses in 1921 with fewer than six rooms	87	86	84	75	69	35	(70)
Birth-rate	{ 1926 ...	16.9	16.4	17.8	18.3	18.8	17.8
	{ 1925 ...	18.7	17.7	21.0	18.7	17.2	18.3
Death-rate	{ 1926 ..	9.9	9.7	12.4	11.6	9.3	10.2
	{ 1925 ...	10.4	10.4	14.2	11.9	11.2	13.1
Infant Mortality Rate	{ 1926 ...	35	27½	112	69	65	115
	{ 1925 ...	50½	66½	82	110	81	43½
							75

Comparisons between localities are open to many fallacies: differences in social composition (such as are indicated in the first row of the table) must be taken into consideration; further, before comparing birth-rates a knowledge of the relative proportion of young married women in the districts is necessary, or before comparing death-rates, information as to the relative numbers of people at ages when death is less avoidable.



